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An Equal Opportunity Employer

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# **Five Mexican Nationals Arrested for Trying to Fraudulently Obtain New Mexico Driver's License**

**The Suspects Drove from Texas and Oklahoma to Obtain New Mexico Licenses**

**SANTA FE** – Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today announced that State and Federal agents this week arrested five Mexican nationals on charges of trying to obtain New Mexico driver's license by falsifying residential requirements, including one suspect for using the Social Security number of a deceased individual.

One suspect, who already obtained his New Mexico driver's license fraudulently, drove his wife and a friend from Oklahoma to help them get theirs.

Two suspects - Arturo Ortiz Arreola and Pedro Gil Camacho, of Houston, Texas – were arrested Monday. In a separate incident, three suspects - Israel Vicente Herrera, Julia Hernandez Sanchez, Antonio Rodriguez, of Tulsa, Oklahoma – were arrested Tuesday. All of them were taken into custody by the United States Border Patrol for deportation.

“Illegal immigrants living in other states are getting more and more sophisticated in their efforts to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses fraudulently,” said Padilla. “Once we figure out their schemes they come up with a new one. The latest trend is – they are leasing apartments on a short-term basis and signing up for utilities and phone service, and producing legitimate documents to establish residency requirements.

“However, they don't live here and it's impossible to track each and every application that is passing through our offices,” added Padilla.

Ortiz Arreola and Gil Camacho, both 35, produced a legitimate lease agreement showing they rented an apartment in Albuquerque, but admitted to investigators that they drove to New Mexico to replace their expired Texas driver's licenses. Texas has changed its laws that required proof of Social Security number before issuing a driver's license.

Ortiz Arreola also produced a Social Security number that belonged to a deceased individual with the last name, "Ortiz." Both men admitted they rented an apartment in Albuquerque and were paying utility bills although they were living in Houston.

Herrera, 50, who already obtain a New Mexico driver's license fraudulently, told investigators that he drove his wife, Sanchez, 35, and a friend, Rodriguez, 25, on Monday from Tulsa for their Tuesday's appointment with MVD. They produced a falsified utility bill as proof of residency although they have never lived in New Mexico and have been residents of Tulsa since 2005.

Herrera also admitted that he obtained New Mexico licenses several years ago fraudulently and had renewed his license in September 2013. MVD has cancelled Herrera's driver's license.

Both cases were investigated by the Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division with assistance from State Police and Border Patrol.

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